

WHAT THEY REMEMBER LASTS FOREVER.

A good reminder as we get deeper into the season:

THEY WON'T REMEMBER:	THEY WILL REMEMBER:
 the score	 whether they felt supported
 the standings	 whether they felt safe making mistakes
 or the exact drills from practice.	 whether they felt included
	 and whether their coach believed in them.



 **ONE OF THE BIGGEST PREDICTORS OF ATHLETE RETENTION IN YOUTH SPORT IS THE RELATIONSHIP THEY HAVE WITH THEIR COACH.**

Years from now, most players will not remember:

- the score,
- the standings,
- or the exact drills from practice.

They WILL remember:

- whether they felt supported,
- whether they felt safe making mistakes,
- whether they felt included,
- and whether their coach believed in them.

One of the biggest predictors of athlete retention in youth sport is the relationship they have with their coach.

Encouragement, consistency, and emotional safety are incredibly powerful development tools — especially for young athletes who are still building confidence.

A great short TEDx talk on transformational coaching and athlete development:

[“Every Kid Needs a Champion”](#) – Rita Pierson:

(Not soccer-specific, but incredibly relevant to coaching youth.)

One practical takeaway for this week:

Try to intentionally give each player at least one specific piece of positive feedback during your next session or game.